

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

JOHN NIEMIEC,

Petitioner,

Case Number: 2:13-CV-10180
HON. GEORGE CARAM STEEH

v.

SHERRY BURT,

Respondent.

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**OPINION AND ORDER CONSTRUING MOTION FOR
CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY AS MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION, DENYING RECONSIDERATION,
AND GRANTING MOTION FOR PAUPER STATUS**

This matter is before the Court on John Niemiec's Motion for Certificate of Appealability and Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* on Appeal. On February 11, 2016, the Court denied Niemiec's petition for a writ of habeas corpus and denied a certificate of appealability. Because the Court has already issued a ruling on the certificate of appealability, the Court construes the Motion for Certificate of Appealability as a motion for reconsideration.

Motions for reconsideration may be granted when the moving party shows (1) a "palpable defect," (2) by which the court and the parties were

misled, and (3) the correction of which will result in a different disposition of the case. E.D. Mich. L.R. 7.1(h)(3). A “palpable defect” is a “defect which is obvious, clear, unmistakable, manifest or plain.” *Olson v. The Home Depot*, 321 F. Supp. 2d 872, 874 (E.D. Mich. 2004).

The Court denied a certificate of appealability (COA) because reasonable jurists could not “debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner” or that the issues presented were “adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further.” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000) (citation omitted). Petitioner’s motion simply reasserts arguments advanced in his petition and, therefore, fails to allege sufficient grounds upon which to grant reconsideration. L.R. 7.1(h)(3) (“[T]he Court will not grant motions for rehearing or reconsideration that merely present the same issues relied upon by the Court, either expressly or by reasonable implication.”). The Court’s decision denying a COA was not based upon a palpable defect by which the Court was misled and the Court will deny the motion.

Also before the Court is Petitioner’s Motion for Pauper Status. Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24(a)(1) provides that a party to a district-court action who desires to appeal *in forma pauperis* must file a

motion in the district court. An appeal may not be taken *in forma pauperis* if the court determines that it is not taken in good faith. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3). “[T]o determine that an appeal is in good faith, a court need only find that a reasonable person could suppose that the appeal has some merit.” *Walker v. O’Brien*, 216 F.3d 626, 631 (7th Cir. 2000). While the Court held that jurists of reason would not find the Court’s decision that the petition was meritless to be debatable or wrong, the Court finds that an appeal may be taken in good faith.

Accordingly, the Court DENIES Petitioner’s “Motion for Certificate of Appealability” (ECF No. 52), which the Court has construed as a “Motion for Reconsideration.” The Court GRANTS Petitioner’s Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* on Appeal (ECF No. 50).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 7, 2017

s/George Caram Steeh
GEORGE CARAM STEEH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Copies of this Order were served upon attorneys of record on June 7, 2017, by electronic and/or ordinary mail and also on John Niemiec, 32038 Williamsburg Dr., St. Clair Shores, MI 48082.

s/Barbara Radke
Deputy Clerk